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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

No deal in seal-hunt pitch

A $1-million cheque from Pamela Anderson and The Simpsons co-creator entices no sealers in St. John's PAGE 4

WHAT, YOU CALLIN' ME A CON MAN AND A COPYCAT?

CHRISTIAN BALE PULLING FROM LINEAGE OF CROOKS IN AMERICAN HUSTLE PAGE 8

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Chief, council accused of misuse of welfare money

Anonymous letters sent to feds. Audit looking into claims that band members used government funding for personal purchases

Members of a Saskatchewan First Nation are facing allegations they misused government money meant for social assistance to buy themselves vehicles, horses and trailers, newly released documents show.

A team of professional auditors is looking into claims made against the chief and council of Big Island Lake Cree Nation in the northwestern part of the province.

No charges have been laid and none of the allegations has been proven in court.

But the federal government says it takes the allegations "very seriously" and Deloitte and Touche has been asked to conduct a forensic audit of the First Nation.

The audit work is ongoing, covering a period from April 2009 to March 2012.

Documents obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act offer a broad look at the allegations against the chief and council.

Big Island Lake Cree Nation

1,132

As of November, the First Nation had a registered population of 1,132, most of whom live on the reserve.

"The areas of analysis include the potential misuse of the social-assistance funds to pay personal expenses of the chief and council; and the allegation that band members who are listed as social-assistance recipients never filed an application and never received social-assistance funds," one document says.

The documents show Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development got an anonymous, handwritten letter in April 2011 about the alleged misuse of federal funding.

The letter accuses band members, whose names are blanked out, of "taking money from social assistance and other accounts."

A second handwritten letter, sent in December 2011, makes more allegations specifically against the chief and councillors.

"Vehicles were bought, quads, horses and travel trailers; these were the things the chief David Sandfly bought and (is) still spending on and we have no money for payroll or social assistance," the letter says.

The anonymous letter-writer also claims the First Nation is plagued by poor infrastructure and problems with alcohol and drug addiction.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

X HITS THE SPOT

The Xbox One and PlayStation 4 are this Christmas season's most in-demand products in home electronics, says Future Shop Regina customer service representative Matt Lecomte. He adds that the chain's stores across the province almost always sell out of both consoles as soon as shipments arrive. For the complete story, visit metronews.ca. SARAH TAGUIAM/METRO

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Development proves divisive

Somerset. Proposed new neighbourhood approved by narrow council majority, with opponents voicing worries over air quality

Work on a controversial new neighbourhood in Regina's north end could begin as early as this spring after city council approved the project's concept plan in a close vote.

A slim majority of councillors supported moving ahead with the Somerset development Monday evening after a lengthy debate mainly centred on air-quality concerns related to the proposed neighbourhood's close proximity to the Evraz steel mill and Co-op oil refinery.

Councillors Shawn Fraser, Barbara Young, Sharron Bryce and John Findura voted against the plan, pointing to reports from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region and provincial Environment Ministry that have questioned the viability of residential development so close to heavy industrial sites.

"If (the developers) are meeting all the requirements, why is the Sask. Environment, the health region ... saying this isn't the place for residential?" Bryce asked.

Supporters on council, however, argued that the development of homes for some 3,100 residents would be no closer to the industrial sites than the current Uplands neighbourhood, which houses about 6,000.

"If there's an issue with air quality, we address it with (the industrial sites) — not with the developer," said Coun. Jerry Flegel, a supporter of the project.

Backers on council also pointed to a caveat that would be required for every land title in Somerset, alerting prospective buyers to potential nuisance issues caused by the industrial properties.

James Pernu, representing the project's developers, told council that Somerset would be a "completion of the Uplands/Kensington Greens areas" that would create a more "complete and sustainable" neighbourhood in the city's northeast.

He also claimed the subdivision would offer an array of housing, noting that affordability continues to be a concern as Regina's growth pushes prices skyward. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

And where are the sugarplum fairies?

A home on Broad Street in north Regina appears eager to get Christmas started, with larger-than-life-sized toy soldiers standing guard in its front yard on Tuesday evening. ROSS ROMANIUK/METRO

New interim Liberal leader faces uphill climb

It hasn't always been this way for the once-mighty Saskatchewan Liberal Party.

Long removed from the days when it could command sizable media attention, the party took to Facebook on Sunday to announce the appointment of Darrin Lamoureux as its interim leader.

The post, as of press time on Tuesday, had eight "likes."

"The biggest reason for taking the position is to get the Liberal brand re-established back in Saskatchewan on a provincial level," Lamoureux, 46, told Metro on Tuesday.

"With my leadership, I think we can get that."

Lamoureux announced the Grits will run a full slate of candidates in the next provincial election after a disastrous performance in 2011 that saw the party fail to elect any of its nine candidates and garner less than one per cent of the vote.

While Lamoureux stressed the Liberals can revive their sagging fortunes, University of Saskatchewan political-science professor David McGrane said the death knell has sounded for the party.

"They (the Liberals) are not playing any role in Saskatchewan politics right now," McGrane told Metro.

"They could hold their party convention in a telephone booth."

The struggles of the Liberals, according to McGrane, speak to the province's propensity for a two-party system.

But winning a seat in the legislature may not be the Liberal leader's sole motivation. Lamoureux said the provincial wing will rededicate itself to supporting its federal counterpart in the run-up to the next national election.

MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

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Reporter rejects Ford's 'apology'

Defamation.
Toronto mayor's statement not enough to halt lawsuit

Rob Ford's apology Tuesday for his televised comments about Daniel Dale failed to satisfy the Toronto Star reporter, who said he is going ahead with a defamation lawsuit against the Toronto mayor.

Ford read a statement in council saying he didn't intend to suggest Dale is a pedophile during a televised interview with Conrad Black.

"I never called Mr. Dale a pedophile," Ford said. "I have never used that word to describe Mr. Dale. I do not believe Mr. Dale is a pedophile nor did I intend to suggest that in my comments."

Ford said he apologizes if his "actual words" have caused Dale any harm or personal offence. The mayor called it "unfortunate" that a word he never said has been "ascribed" to him by the media.

Those remarks come a week after Ford initially said he stood by every word of the interview.

Dale served Ford last week with a libel notice, demanding the mayor retract all of his false claims about what happened during an incident near Ford's house in May 2012 and issue an "unreserved, abject, complete apology."

Hours after Ford read his statement, Dale issued one of his own on Twitter, saying Ford's apology didn't even come close to what he sought.

"In his 'apology,' the mayor didn't retract anything at all," Dale wrote. "Instead, he blamed the media for its reasonable interpretation of his words."

During the interview with Black, which aired Dec. 9 on VisionTV, Ford claimed that Dale was in his backyard, "taking pictures of little kids."

"I don't want to say that word, but you start thinking what this guy is all about," Ford said.

If pedophile wasn't "that word," then someone should ask Ford what word he was suggesting, Dale said in an interview.

"I think to some extent now it doesn't matter what he was suggesting," Dale said. "Whether it's his intent or not it's the impression that was left and I don't think it's because the media misinterpreted him." THE CANADIAN PRESS

The reluctant apologist

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has been forced to apologize for various behaviours and off-colour or insulting remarks since the so-called crack video scandal broke in May.

Dec. 17:
Reluctantly apologized for suggesting members of council were "corrupt." He initially withdrew his comments, but speaker Frances Nunziata said he needed to apologize. "Which one do you want, Madam Speaker?" Ford said sarcastically. "Like, 'Super, super, super, super, super, super, super sorry? So sorry?'"

Nov. 18:
Apologizes for running into Coun. Pam McConnell and knocking her over during a council meeting to strip the mayor of most of his powers. "It was a complete accident," Ford said.

Nov. 14:
Apologizes for crude remarks he made earlier that day in which he denied offering a former female staffer oral sex, saying he had "more than enough to eat at home."

Nov. 8:
Appears ashamed while delivering a statement in response to a video that surfaced of a rambling, enraged Ford in a profanity-laced tirade in which he threatens to kill someone. "Obviously, I was extremely, extremely inebriated," he said.

Nov. 5:
Apologizes after admitting he had indeed smoked crack cocaine, likely in one of his drunken stupors.

Nov. 3:
Apologizes on his now-cancelled weekly radio show on Newstalk1010 for making mistakes including appearing in public while "hammered" and texting while driving.

May 27:
Apologizes to reporters for calling them a "bunch of maggots" during his radio show.

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford looks up to the press gallery as he concludes reading an apology to Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale on Tuesday. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hollywood gets the cold shoulder

Actress Pamela Anderson and a co-creator of The Simpsons received a frosty reception in St. John's, N.L., on Tuesday as they tried to present a $1-million incentive to help end the East Coast seal hunt.

Members of the Fish, Food and Allied Workers union, representing sealers, shouted questions at Anderson and Sam Simon during a chaotic news conference outside the office of the Canadian Sealers Association.

Simon offered a giant $1-million cheque to the Canadian Sealers Association and said his intention is to respectfully encourage governments to legislate an end to seal licences while protecting aboriginal hunts.

In a letter dated Tuesday to Eldred Woodford, president of the Canadian Sealers Association, Simon said he's making the offer after the World Trade Organization upheld Europe's ban on imported seal products.

A dispute settlement panel said last month that aspects of the embargo undermine fair trade but can be justified on "public moral concerns" for animal welfare.

"With bans firmly in place across Europe, Russia, the U.S., and other countries, the writing is on the wall," says the letter.

"The seal trade is finished. Leaders as diverse as President Obama and Vladimir Putin embrace this change, yet Canadian politicians remain too timid to initiate a buyout for fear of upsetting swing voters in Eastern Canada — and because they don't seem to care about individual sealers."

The association's office was closed and no one from the association was present.

Ottawa and the provincial government announced they'll spend almost $500,000 on a joint pilot project to offer seal meat at stores in Canada and overseas in the new year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Actress Pamela Anderson and Sam Simon, producer of The Simpsons, talk to media outside the Canadian Sealers Association in St. John's, N.L., Tuesday. They attempted to deliver to the association a letter with a $1-million cheque to end the annual commercial seal hunt, but the office remained closed. PAUL DALY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rob Ford, royal baby and twerking. Google reveals year's top search terms

After dissecting the more than 40 billion queries submitted throughout 2013, Google Canada has declared Toronto's notorious Mayor Rob Ford as search term of the year.

While Facebook was the absolute top search of the year — as it has been for several years running — Ford topped Google's so-called trending list, representing the search terms that stood out most compared to previous web history.

Ford was followed by the late Glee actor Cory Monteith, who died of an overdose in July; Fast and Furious actor Paul Walker, who was killed in a car crash last month; murder victim Tim Bosma; and the Boston marathon.

Nelson Mandela, royal baby, North Korea, the Harlem Shake dance craze and Lac-Mégantic rounded out the Top 10 list.

One of the most interesting annual lists Google releases is a countdown of trending "what is" searches, which reveals what topics web searchers were keen to learn more about.

"What is twerking" topped the list, and the provocative dance was also the No. 1 "how to" search. Fracking was second on the "what is" list, followed by ricin, bbm, molly, bitcoin, Monsanto, Snapchat, EPO and DOMA. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Miley Cyrus "twerking" onstage with Robin Thicke during the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards in New York City. NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES

Murder trial. Knox declares innocence in email to Italian court

Amanda Knox declared her innocence in her roommate's 2007 murder in a highly unusual email Tuesday to the Italian court hearing the case against her. The former U.S. exchange student also said she was staying away from the trial out of fear of being wrongly convicted.

"I didn't kill. I didn't rape. I didn't rob. I didn't plot. I didn't instigate. I didn't kill Meredith," Knox wrote.

Presiding Judge Alessandro Nencini read the five-page email written in Italian into the court record. He noted that the email, presented by Knox's lawyers before their closing arguments, was not a normal procedure in Italy. He said it highlighted Knox's absence and indicated it did not have the same legal standing as a declaration made in person.

Knox explained her absence was out of fear that she would be wrongly convicted. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scotland Yard

No evidence found tying SAS to death of Princess Diana

London's police force said Tuesday there is "no credible evidence" that British special forces were involved in the deaths of Princess Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, and it will not reopen the investigation.

Scotland Yard has been looking into claims that the SAS had played a role.

The claims, widely reported in the British media, were made by an ex-SAS member identified only as Soldier N.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Putin offers Ukraine $15B bailout, cheap gas

Passageway. Ukraine serves as a key conduit for Russian natural gas exports to Europe

Pro-European Union activists gather during a rally in Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Tuesday.
EFREM LUKATSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday opened his wallet in the battle with the European Union over Ukraine's future, saying Moscow will buy $15 billion worth of Ukrainian government bonds and sharply cut the price of natural gas for its economically struggling neighbour.

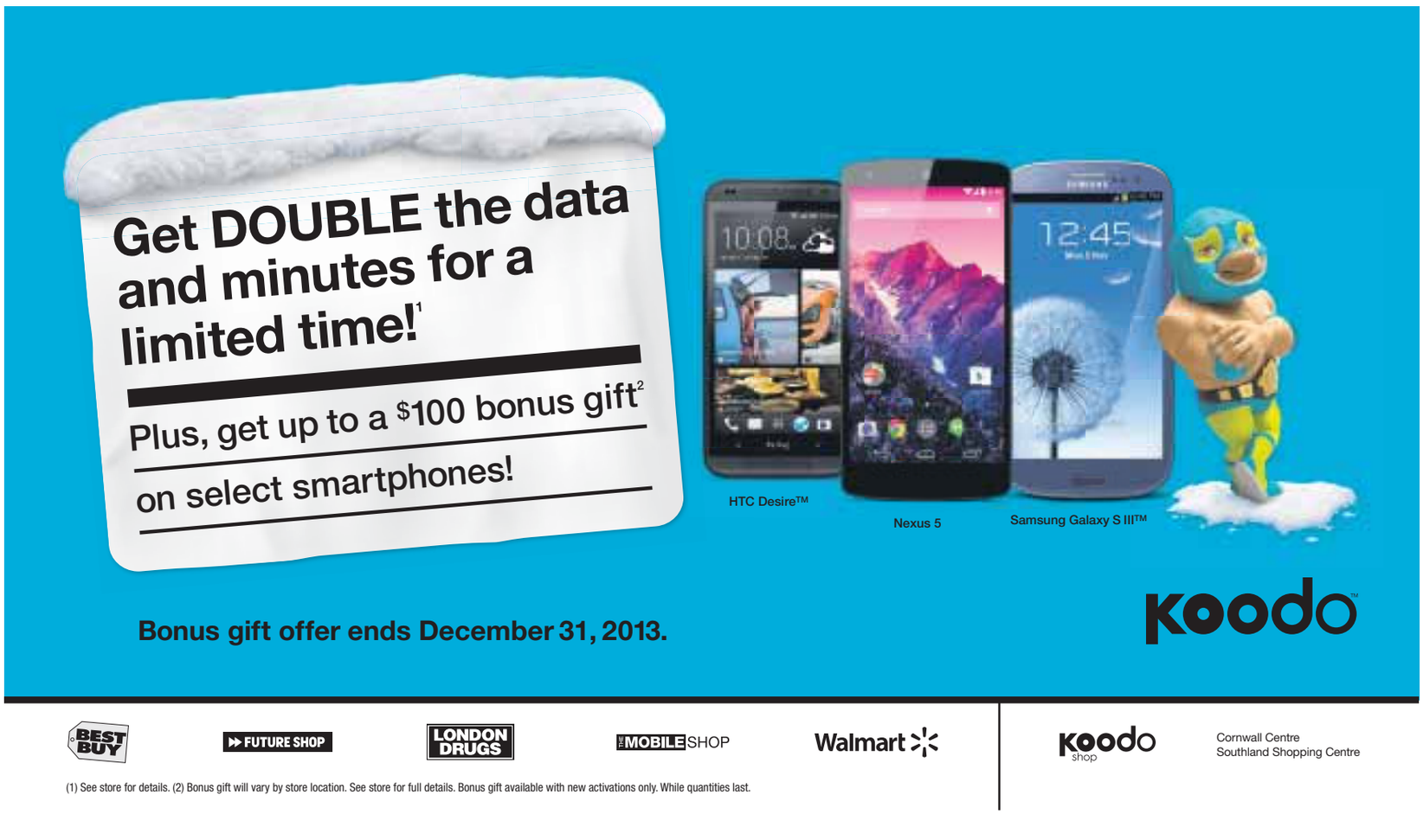
The announcements came after Putin held talks in Moscow with Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, who is facing massive protests at home for his decision to shelve a pact with the EU in favour of closer ties with Moscow. Russia's bailout package angered protesters, who immediately accused Yanukovych of selling out the country to the Kremlin.

Washington said the Kremlin agreements would not address concerns of the demonstrators in Kyiv, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel dismissed what she described as a "bidding competition" over Ukraine.

Putin's move came as Ukraine said it desperately needs to get at least $10 billion in the coming months to avoid bankruptcy. The Fitch ratings agency has given Ukraine's bonds a B-minus rating, which puts them in "junk bond" territory.

Putin sought to calm protesters in Kyiv by saying he and Yanukovych didn't discuss the prospect of Ukraine joining a Moscow-dominated economic bloc they fear will pull their country closer into Russia's orbit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Facebook auto-play video ads could 'push people away'

Monetizing socializing. Ads silently auto-playing in news feeds a hit with investors, but some users do not like the idea

Investors are giving a thumbs-up to the idea of Facebook making hundreds of millions in new revenue from video advertisements, but some users argue that the social network is already too cluttered and has become more about commercialism than communing with friends.

Facebook said Tuesday that it's testing video advertisements that show up in its users' news feeds. As part of the test, Facebook said some of its users on Thursday will see a series of videos teasing Summit Entertainment's upcoming release of Divergent, a film based on a young adult novel with the same name, in their feeds.

Your news feed is about to get more cluttered, with video ads. GETTY IMAGES

While investors liked the idea, with Facebook's shares hitting an all-time high of $55.18 US on the news Tuesday, the reaction from users has been less positive.

Ben Wachtel, a 23-year-old from Indianapolis and a Facebook user since high school, says he feels like he and his friends are using the social network less and less, as ads crowd out posts from real people.

"If they add videos, especially auto play ones, it's just going to push people away," said Wachtel.

Under the current plan, the advertisements automatically start playing without sound when they appear. Users can click on a video to view it with sound, or scroll past it if they're not interested.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

#Top spot on Instagram

Will she be posting that pic of an aquatic animal display at Siam Ocean World in Siam Paragon shopping mall to Instagram? The luxury mall in the heart of Bangkok has claimed this year's crown as the world's most photographed location on Instagram in 2013, says the photo-sharing app.

SAKCHAI LALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Help! Too lazy to undeck those halls of holly? Pay someone to do it for you

If you're sick of the holiday season already — and shame on you if you are — then Anne-Marie Moore has the solution for you.

The London, Ont., specialist gives people back their time, with her business Make It So, taking on the tasks nobody's got time for.

That could be anything from picking up groceries to hiring contractors to building that long-awaited deck, but now Moore's had a seasonal brainwave.

She's launched Undeck The Halls, a service that brings down your Christmas decorations, organizes them and packs them away neatly.

"I'm trying to come up with unique ideas for clients to get them what I liked to call return of time," said Moore.

"Time is our most precious commodity."

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO IN LONDON, ONT.

Anne-Marie Moore takes an axe to a Christmas tree as she gets ready to Undeck the Halls. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Undecorating tips

- Want to be ready for next year? Remember to roll your lights up neatly.
- Moore also recommends labelling everything so you know where it is.
- If you're storing stuff away, group things by theme or colour.
- Moore recommends a box marked "open me first," so you get into the mood quickly next year.

Replaces the late Larsson

New author to pen Girl With Dragon Tattoo sequel

The Swedish publisher of the bestselling The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo trilogy said Tuesday it has hired an author to write a sequel to the series by Stieg Larsson, who died in 2004.

Norstedts said it signed a contract with David Lagercrantz, the author of I Am Zlatan, a biography of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, the captain of Sweden's soccer team. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 94.25¢ (-0.21¢)

TSX 13,180.09 (-4.32)

OIL $97.22 US (-$0.26)

GOLD $1,230.10 US (-$14.30)

Natural gas: $4.28 US (+$0.02)
Dow Jones: 15,875.26 (-9.31)

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

By the time you read this, someone could be at least $636 million richer.

That's the U.S. Mega Millions jackpot, which was drawn last night. If nobody wins, the next draw will be Friday, and the prize will approach $1 billion, which is so ridiculous, it's hard to type.

Of course, Uncle Sam gets his half right off the top, but that will still be a cool half billion after taxes.

Buried somewhere in the fine print are the odds, which are only about one in 259 million. But somebody has to win eventually, and it won't be you if you don't buy a ticket.

Canadians are eligible to buy a Mega Millions ticket, but only if they cross-border shop to do it. So when you're shopping for cheese or cheap gas, don't forget your one-in-259-million chance to join the one per cent overnight.

I wonder if the latest Mega Millionaire will follow the example of Calgarian Tom Crist, who won $40 million in the Lotto Max recently, then decided to give it all away to charity to commemorate his wife, who died of lung cancer two years ago.

Tom says he's already financially secure thanks to his successful business and he doesn't need the money. But I imagine it's not easy to give away 40 million bucks, never mind 600 zillion.

Tom's story is particularly compelling because this is the season of giving and he sets the bar pretty high. Even the post-ghost Ebenezer Scrooge looks like a piker in comparison.

For years now, my wife has been dutifully buying lottery tickets while I scoff and snort in a nearby dark corner. Just as dutifully, she lists all the people she will help when she wins $40 million or whatever. And as much as I ridicule the whole process as pointless, it's not long before I start worrying how we're going to afford the villa on the Riviera while fighting cancer and paying off the mortgages of various friends and relatives.

And then, I remember:

1.) It's her ticket. If I want the villa on the Riviera, I can buy my own ticket.

2.) The odds of winning Lotto Max aren't quite one in 259 million, but I'm more likely to be hit by lightning, and how many times has that happened, touch wood? So what am I going on about?

3.) Whatever happened to my generosity of spirit? It's pretty bad when I can't even imagine giving it away.

So thanks, Tom Crist. With the Spirit of Crist-mas present, you've inspired me to go out, buy a lottery ticket and think about giving it all away. If no one has claimed the Mega Millions prize after last night's draw, I may even head for the border and buy a ticket so I can imagine giving $600 zillion away. What joy! Of course, there's no chance I'll actually win anything, is there?

So don't get too excited out there…

ZOOM

Carnivore plant pic wins award

A picture of a meat-eating water plant has won this year's Olympus BioScapes International Digital Imaging Competition. Polish-born biologist Igor Siwanowicz's photo shows the inside of an open trap of aquatic carnivorous plant, the humped bladderwort (utricularia gibba), which digests micro invertebrates sucked into its trap. METRO

IGOR SIWANOWICZ/2013 OLYMPUS BIOSCAPES INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL IMAGING COMPETITION

Q and A

An underwater hunter

IGOR SIWANOWICZ
Biologist, 37, from Krakow, Poland, based in Ashburn, Va.

How does it catch its prey?
Antenna-like 'trigger hairs' guide an aquatic arthropod toward the trapdoor. Touching a hair causes the entrance to bulge inward. The plant's walls rapidly spring back to their initial position and the prey is sucked in within a millisecond!

It looks like a sort of bizarre, otherworldly vessel.
Yes, like an alien treasure stash! Honestly, if I tried I couldn't have planned this image to turn out this way. This photograph stands as a salute to nature's ingenuity.

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

It's a familiar refrain: an app debuts, gets popular and then gets banned from either the iTunes store or the Google Play store for violating our mobile overlords' terms of service. In the case of Apple, banning an app from iTunes effectively kills it (unless you're willing to jailbreak your phone), but Android's relative openness allows for side-loading apps. So, for all you Android users out there, here are some of the best of the banned:

CONTRIBUTED

Falcon Pro (getfalcon.pro):

Arguably one of the best Twitter clients for Android, Falcon Pro vanished from the Play store last summer. To be fair, it wasn't Google's doing, but rather Twitter's. The company's user limit for third-party clients — which some believe is an attempt to corral everyone into the official app — kiboshed Falcon for new users. Fortunately, you can still install the app, and a little Googling will show you how to circumvent Twitter's limit.

CyanogenMod (cyanogenmod.org):

CyanogenMod is a user-created alternative to stock Android. It's the most popular Android remix on the market, and allows users get the latest version of the OS if their manufacturer hasn't released an update. An easy-to-use installer for CyanogenMod was booted from the Play store in November but can still be found online. Be warned, as Google claims installing CyanogenMod can void your warranty.

Amazon Appstore (amazon.com/getappstore):

Google may not always be evil, but they do hate competition. Intended for Kindle users, the Amazon Appstore contains many of the same apps as the official Play store, and also offers regular sales and freebies. Fortunately, the app is still available via Amazon's website.

Comments

RE: The Vomit Face, The Dislike And The Nobody Cares: Facebook Buttons We'd 'Like', says Metro's Jessica Napier, published Dec. 17

@debbiepalm44: Twitter needs them too!

@luxembourg5: OK, the facebook buttons sound great, but enough already about trashing Rob Ford~~it gets boring.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: reginaletters@metronews.ca

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SCENE

Hollywood's in for the long con

American Hustle. Bale's latest role has him playing a con artist who helps the FBI, but with this genre, it's a con that's been seen before

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

"You're a con artist," wrote Karina Halle in Sins & Needles. "A liar. A thief. An unredeemable soul."

She might also have added to that colourful list really interesting movie character.

As despicable as flim flam artists may be, there is no denying they make good film subjects.

This weekend in American Hustle, Christian Bale plays Irving Rosenfeld, a con man forced to help the FBI ensnare a group of corrupt politicians in the ABSCAM sting operation.

Although American Hustle director David O. Russell says his film is a fictionalized account of events, the ABSCAM operation was headline news in the early 1980s and Hollywood took notice.

In 1982 director Louis Malle was making plans for a May start date on an ABSCAM film called Moon Over Miami starring Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi. Belushi was to play Melvin Weinberg, based on the same man as Bale's character in American Hustle. The movie was scuttled following Belushi's death in March of that year.

That con man film never saw the light of day, but many others have.

Amy Adams and Christian Bale star in American Hustle, which opens this weekend. HANDOUT

Everyone knows The Sting and The Grifters, but lesser seen is David Mamet's The Spanish Prisoner, a complicated story starring Campbell Scott as Joe Ross, a man who invents a process "to control the world market." Concerned that he will not be properly compensated for his work he contacts Jimmy Dell (Steve Martin), a wealthy businessman who offers to help. Little does Ross know that he has just stepped into a world of deception that will change his life.

Steve Martin's performance in The Spanish Prisoner was Oscar worthy, but it wasn't the first time he played a confidence man on film.

In the comedy Dirty Rotten Scoundrels he starred opposite Michael Caine as a scruffy con man trying to muscle in on some high end business on the French Riviera. Caine's suave grifter makes a bet with Martin. Whoever can con Soap Queen Janet Colgate (Glenne Headley) first will walk away with $50,000.

The movie was written for Mick Jagger and David Bowie who were looking to do a project together after the success of their Dancing in the Street video. The rock stars dropped out before cameras rolled — Bowie later said both were, "a bit tweezed that we lost out on a script that could have been reasonably good" — and replaced by Martin and Caine whose hilarious performances earned the movie a spot on Bravo's 100 Funniest Movies list.

Movie review

Stay classy Will Ferrell

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

Stars. Will Ferrell, Steve Carell

Anchorman 2 may not be as classy (or as funny) as its 2004 progenitor but it's definitely more outrageous. For better or worse, star and co-writer Will Ferrell clearly had free rein with a foolish fable of the hapless broadcaster taking on the televised origin of 24-hour news. Ferrell and his star-studded cast will surely earn laughs — even if the sequel falls short of the original's cohesion.

STEVE GOW/METRO

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Beyoncé. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Beyoncé's new album won't hit the Target

It seems not everyone enjoyed the surprise Beyoncé pulled off with her latest album, which debuted online last week with no prior notice. Retail chain Target, in fact, is refusing to carry the album, according to Billboard.

"At Target we focus on offering our guests a wide assortment of physical CDs, and when a new album is available digitally before it is available physically, it impacts demand and sales projections," a spokeswoman for the chain says. "While there are many aspects that contribute to our approach and we have appreciated partnering with Beyoncé in the past, we are primarily focused on offering CDs that will be available in a physical format at the same time as all other formats. At this time, Target will not be carrying Beyoncé's new self-titled album Beyoncé."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Lil Wayne isn't dead, but the Internet is ready if he is

THE WORD
MELINDA TAUB
scene@metronews.ca

At this point, Lil Wayne is basically a superhero, given how many times he's come back from the dead.

Yet another Lil Wayne death rumour was making the rounds on Facebook Tuesday. RIP Rapper Lil Wayne Found Dead, the video reads, before prompting the user to share it before viewing. Not to worry, though — the rapper is alive and well.

It's not clear where this latest rumour springs from (the Inquisitr speculates it could be a Facebook data harvesting scam, since you have to share the video to view it), but it's far from the first time death rumours have swirled around the rapper. The most credible was this summer, when he was hospitalized for seizures and TMZ reported that he was on his deathbed. However, he recovered.

Why is Lil Wayne such a frequent target of death rumours? Maybe because his real health problems make them quasi-credible. The rapper is epileptic, which is what landed him in the hospital this summer.

"It got real bad because I got three (seizures) in a row, and on the third one my heart rate went down to, like, 30 per cent," he said in a radio interview with Power 106. "Basically, I could've died soon. That's why it was so serious."

I guess he can take some comfort in knowing that if (God forbid) anything ever does happen to him, the Internet has a bunch of In Memoriam videos all ready to go.

Jason Bateman

Bateman urges Aniston to get married

Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux have been getting some well-intentioned pressure to just go ahead and tie the knot already from someone very close to them: good friend Jason Bateman.

"Jason has been one of the biggest cheerleaders for Justin to pull the trigger and marry Jen," a source tells Radar Online.

"Jen has had her own trepidations, too, after her marriage to Brad Pitt failed. But Jason loves both of them to pieces and as a longtime married father of two himself, he's a better example of how to achieve personal happiness in Hollywood."

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Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!
If all this white stuff make visions of mogul bumps dance in your head, here are a few exciting developments you should know about for the 2013-2014 ski season.

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

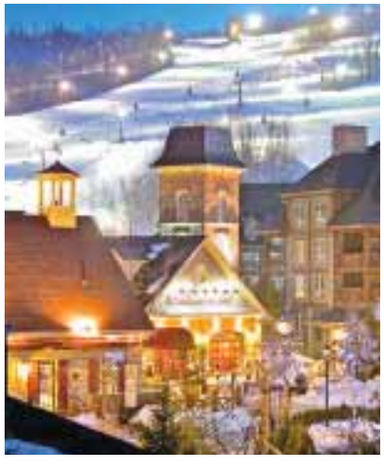
5 Perks for the powder hounds

Rossland's Red Mountain

Just in time for the 2013/2014 ski season, Red Mountain Resort in Rossland, British Columbia has completed the largest expansion of any ski resort in North America in more than four decades. The development of Grey Mountain means an additional 1,000 acres of mostly intermediate terrain to the existing resort. Part of BC's renowned Powder Highway, Red is a two and a half hour drive from Spokane, Washington and three hours from Kelowna.

Cat tracks and snowshoes

Alberta's Fortress Mountain was closed as a ski resort in 2006. Over the last three years, KPOW (Kananaskis Powder) skiing at Fortress Mountain has brought a cat skiing operation back to sections of the mountain. Ski leaders will tour and teach anyone wanting to take advantage of the eight to 11 metres of annual snowfall. New this year, KPOW is partnering with White Mountain Adventures to offer snowshoeing at Fortress Mountain.



Brand new trails at Blue!

Ontario's premier ski resort, Blue Mountain, has added an additional 64 acres with its Orchard Expansion, which includes six new trails and the latest high-speed chairlift system to get you there. Their lift rate specials are on designated weeks from January to March, but for those spontaneous, flexible souls, Blue Mountain offers a last-minute Hot Deals club that includes the full gamut of accommodations.

Happy 75th Tremblant!

Quebec's Mont Tremblant is turning 75 this year. As part of the anniversary celebrations, the resort has invested $5 million into The Westin Resort & Spa Tremblant and renovated a number of boutiques and restaurants in the resorts' charming village. The mountain is featuring a long lineup of events throughout the winter including its traditional New Year's Eve party, the official 75th anniversary spring celebrations, the must-attend Caribou Cup, and a new Red Bull signature event that extends over four weekends from March 29 to April 19.

Ski — then stay at La Ferme

If you are planning to hit the slopes of Le Massif de Charlevoix this winter, avoid the 45 minute commute back and forth between Quebec City and stay at the Hôtel La Ferme. Constructed out of an old dairy farm in the middle of a field in Baie-Saint- Paul, this charming hotel is connecting by rail to the ski hills. From the hotel's lobby, skiers can walk into the train station, choose a take-out lunch, hop on the rail shuttle with their skis and get off right at the foot of trails.

Chestnuts roasting on an open fire? They'd be happier in these truffles

Who doesn't love chocolate truffles? They are the essence of chocolate, and a sure-fire mood enhancer. Pop even one into your mouth and see if you don't get happy.

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the chestnuts and water. Bring to boil, then reduce the heat to maintain a simmer, cover and cook until the chestnuts are very tender and all the water has been absorbed, about 30 minutes.

2. Add the milk and heat the mixture until it just comes to a simmer. Remove the pan from the heat, add the chocolate, then recover the pan. Let stand off the burner until the chocolate is melted, about 3 to 4 minutes. Stir and transfer to a blender along with the espresso powder, salt, corn syrup and liquor. Blend until very smooth.

3. Transfer to a bowl, cover tightly with plastic wrap and chill until very firm, at least 3 hours. Form the mixture into small balls (about 2 tsp each) and roll the balls in the cocoa powder until they are coated, shaking off the excess. Chill until ready to serve. Will keep, refrigerated, for 2 weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS

Ingredients

- 5.2-oz pkg roasted and peeled chestnuts, medium chopped
- 3/4 cup water
- 1/3 cup low-fat evaporated milk
- 4 oz bittersweet chocolate, medium chopped
- 1 tsp instant espresso powder or 1 tbsp instant coffee
- Pinch of table salt
- 2 tbsp light corn syrup
- 2 tsp Tia Maria, Kahlua, Baileys, brandy or rum
- 1 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder

Spiked Mocha Chestnut Truffles

This recipe makes 20 truffles. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drink of the Week

Peppermint Sapphire Splash

- 1 and 1/2 oz Bombay Sapphire
- 1/2 oz Martini Bianco
- 1 and 1/2 oz white cranberry juice
- 1/2 oz peppermint liqueur
- Frozen cranberries

Add all liquid ingredients into a shaker. Add ice and shake hard. Strain mixture into a cocktail glass leaving the ice chips in the glass. Garnish with frozen cranberries.

JEAN-SÉBASTIEN DUPUIS/BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

Just cook, drop and roll for a cranberry-coconut mash-up

No-Bake Cranberry Bites

This recipe makes three and a half dozen cookies. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For anyone who loves macaroons, these chewy, cranberry-speckled no-bake cookies should help you satisfy your coconut cravings.

Feel free to decorate these cookies however you like. We prefer to roll them in yet more shredded coconut (toasted is a nice touch), but you also could roll them in chopped pistachios, peanuts, hazelnuts, even pine nuts would be delicious. Or for a sweeter version, get coloured decorating sugar from the baking supply shop and roll them in that.

1. In a large skillet over medium heat, combine the sweetened condensed milk, 4 cups of shredded coconut, the water, brown sugar, cinnamon, cloves and salt. Cook, stirring constantly, until it forms a thick paste, about 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in the cranberries, then set aside off the heat and allow to cool completely.

2. Once the mixture has cooled, set out a bowl of toasted coconut, finely chopped nuts or coloured sugar. Form the mixture into 1-inch balls, then roll each ball in the coating of your choice.

3. The cookies should be stored in an airtight container between layers of kitchen parchment or waxed paper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 14-oz can sweetened condensed milk
- 4 cups shredded coconut, preferably unsweetened
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- Pinch salt
- 1 cup chopped dried cranberries
- 1 cup toasted shredded coconut, finely chopped nuts or coloured sugar

Dessert. Blueberry Chocolate Clusters

Ingredients

- 1 cup fresh Chilean blueberries
- 1 cup chocolate chips (dark, milk or white)

This recipe makes 18 to 24 clusters.
NEWS CANADA

1. Rinse blueberries, spread on paper towels and pat dry. Line a baking sheet with wax paper or parchment. Place chocolate in a small bowl or in a double boiler, over barely simmering water. Stir until melted. Remove bowl from hot water and gently fold in blueberries.

2. Make clusters by spooning 3-5 warm chocolate coated blueberries onto wax paper, placing them 1 inch apart or spoon mixture into silicone candy molds if you have them. Refrigerate until firm, about 30 minutes.

3. Transfer to an airtight container and refrigerate for up to three days. NEWS CANADA/THE US HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY COUNCIL

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If you need some inspiration to get ahead, look to the big man in red

Is Santa the employee of the century? He checks his lists twice, he's got the nice thing down, what more can you ask for in a worker?

LEAH RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

If you're planning on spending some of your holiday downtime on your job search, use the big man himself as someone to model your employable self after.

Not only has he been extremely successful in his career, but he consistently demonstrates a solid work ethic and embodies the qualities of an admirable worker.

Take a look at the top reasons Santa continues to excel year after year and stands strong as a model employee:

He achieves the impossible

He might be a large man, but he still manages to squeeze down even the tightest of chimneys.

What's your version of impossible? Changing industries, going back to school, getting a position that's outside of your experience?

Have a goal, put your mind to it, and you too can fit in places you never thought possible.

He has a can-do attitude

The whole 'getting around the entire world in one night' detail has stumped the public for centuries — to the point where people use this as the sole reason to stop believing in Santa Claus.

I know, I know.

Think you have too much on your plate? Have people telling you you're underqualified and not skilled enough for what you want to do? You can do anything you set your mind to — just ask Santa.

He asks for what he needs

Santa has one of the busiest jobs around. He has billions of people relying on him to gear up and deliver — literally.

He knows he can do it, but he also knows he might need a little help along the way.

Santa has no shame in asking for some milk and cookies to give him the energy he needs to power through.

If you feel like you don't have all the tools or training you need to most effectively do your job, speak up!

Your boss wants you to be productive — and if there's something you need help with in order to do just that, they should know about it.

He gives back

Santa never steals the spotlight, constantly paying recognition to his hardworking elves and reindeer: two very important pieces in the holiday puzzle. Santa couldn't be Santa without a team and he knows that.

Santa also engages. Write him a letter and he will write back!

As we all know, so much of the job market nowadays is dependent on our social channels. Employers will look you up (or engage with you) on LinkedIn, Twitter and beyond. You want to make sure you're doing it right.

Don't make it all about you.

Don't endlessly push your own content without commenting or engaging with other posts as well. Share the spotlight and celebrate people who have helped you get to where you are.

Sure it looks like a lot to take on, but Santa's got a can-do attitude when it comes to all tasks, and so should you.
ISTOCK

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He follows the dress code

He follows the dress code

- It's easy to get too comfortable at a place of employment, or reach that point where you've been there long enough that you start trying to get away with more and more.
- Santa has been doing the same job for what likely feels like forever, yet his outfit never disappoints. After hundreds of years delivering toys across the globe, he still shows up in a suit. Every. Single. Year.
- Think like Santa and you too can ho-ho-hold your head high as a model employee.

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Hug it out

Ronaldo fan cleared of charges

Prosecutors in South Florida have dropped charges against an excited Canadian fan who got onto the field and hugged Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo during an August match.

The Miami-Dade state attorney's office announced Monday it would not prosecute 20-year-old Ronald Gjoka, an Albanian-born Canadian citizen, on trespassing charges. During Real Madrid's 3-1 Guinness International Champions Cup victory over Chelsea, Gjoka hugged Ronaldo for several seconds before police escorted him away. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC

Rousey backs St-Pierre's decision to take leave

UFC champion (Rowdy) Ronda Rousey says Georges St-Pierre was right to leave mixed martial arts, if for no other reason than to preserve his health.

"We're not really doing nine to five or sitting down in a cubicle," the UFC's inaugural women's bantamweight champion said Tuesday. "If you fight for a living, you're fighting for your life every time you go in there. It's a stressful situation, if you think about it."

Rousey (7-0) noted that St-Pierre, with his controversial win last month over Johny (Bigg Rigg) Hendricks at UFC 167, had set a UFC total fight time record with five hours 28 minutes 12 seconds in the Octagon. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Maple Leafs goalie James Reimer scrambles to make a save as the Florida Panthers' Marcel Goc looks for the loose puck with the Leafs' Carl Gunnarsson defending during first-period play in Toronto on Tuesday. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs give away win to lowly Panthers

NHL. Florida cashes in on Toronto turnovers to continue unlikely 4-game winning streak

A night after hanging with the mighty Penguins, the Maple Leafs struggled to keep up with the lowly Panthers.

Playing the second half of back-to-back games, Toronto lacked sufficient buzz and made plenty of mistakes in a 3-1 loss to red-hot Florida on Tuesday night at Air Canada Centre.

On Tuesday

Panthers	Leafs
3	1

Turnovers led to each of the Panthers' goals, scored by Tomas Fleischmann, Sean Bergenheim and Brad Boyes, and the Leafs couldn't make up for those blunders at the other end of the ice, producing just one on a tip by Mason Raymond.

Florida goaltender Scott Clemmensen was the beneficiary of that offensive ineptitude as he made 28 saves for the victory.

The Panthers won their fourth straight game and for the sixth time in their past seven. Their last loss came Dec. 8 at the defending Stanley Cup-champion Chicago Blackhawks.

James Reimer gave up three goals on 23 shots, but the Leafs' fifth loss in their past six games could not be pinned on their starting goalie. Instead, this was about giving the puck away at the most inopportune of times.

The Leafs (17-16-3) were very generous with it Tuesday night, and it didn't even matter that they were facing an opponent with the NHL's lowest payroll, and one missing last year's rookie of the year in Jonathan Huberdeau, who was out with a foot injury.

Centre Nazem Kadri was the first Leafs player to make a costly error, before some of the 19,076 fans even settled into their seats. Kadri lost the puck at the Panthers' blue-line, and seconds later Fleischmann beat Reimer to make it 1-0 just 3:29 in. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dineen named Canadian women's coach

Hockey Canada announced Kevin Dineen as the new head coach of the national women's team in Calgary on Tuesday. LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

With less than two months to go until the Sochi Olympics, Kevin Dineen will have to hit the ground running as the new head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team.

Dineen was named to the post Tuesday, just a few days after Dan Church's surprise resignation. Dineen was signed for the remainder of the season and will guide the defending champions at the Feb. 7-23 Winter Games.

"This has been a whirlwind few days but when this opportunity presented itself I immediately jumped at it," Dineen said at a news conference.

It's the first international coaching job for Dineen, who served as head coach of the NHL's Florida Panthers for parts of three seasons until he was fired last month. He previously served as head coach of the AHL's Portland Pirates for six seasons (2005-11).

"We're very excited that Kevin will join the coaching staff of Canada's national women's team and bring his unique perspective to the dressing room," Hockey Canada chief operating officer Scott Smith said in a statement. "Kevin has had success in both the AHL and NHL, and we're looking forward to him being a part of the staff for the final push towards Sochi." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Up next

Canada will meet the U.S. in an exhibition game on Friday in Grand Forks, N.D.

4 SPORTS

DRIVE

Stars of the future hit Hollywood

Autoknow. It's OK to dream in California but the real stuff out of LA is just as good

TODD D. BURLAGE
wheelbasemedia.com

Arguably the star of the show was the striking Mercedes Benz Vision Gran Turismo.

Stars and cars, flash and cash. The 2013 Los Angeles Auto Show didn't disappoint with its usual blend of style and speed, all gracing dozens of stages throughout the Los Angeles Convention Center.

From gaudy and showy to practical and ecological, nearly 50 production vehicles made worldwide and U.S. debuts alongside the launches of about a dozen fresh concepts.

With the global economy continuing to show signs of life, an estimated 1,000,000 spectators passed through the turnstiles during the 10-day event (Nov. 22 to Dec. 1) that unofficially kicks off the North American auto-show season every fall.

Automakers pulled out all the horsepower and star-power to attract both thrifty and lavish new-car buyers this year in an ultra-competitive market.

Tennis great Maria Sharapova climbed from the driver's seat of the new 2015 Porsche Macan during its unveiling — one of the most anticipated world debuts at the show — while NBA star Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers was in house to promote a long list of vehicles Kia brought to L.A. Sharing the same opening date as the 2013 Tokyo Motor Show, the L.A. Auto Show had to share some of the international headlines, but not enough to diminish the importance and influence this West Coast vehicle expo traditionally has on the approaching auto season.

So, what's new?

When it comes to cars and California, enough is never enough in terms of styling, luxury and technology. Last year's message of conservative efficiency took a backseat this year to speed, power, status and excess.

The sleek and sexy 2015 Jaguar F-Type Coupe emerged as the headline act among the debut vehicles. Not even TV mogul Simon Cowell and supermodel Miranda Kerr could hold audience attention as the new Jaguar Coupe made its grand debut with a full-throttle, ear-busting entrance into the arena while the two stars stood nearby. Ready for spring of 2015, the best version of what is essentially a hardtop version of the two-seat F-Type roadster features a 550-horsepower supercharged V8 that propels it to 100 km/h from zero in 4.0 seconds and to a top speed of 298 km/h. For those with slightly smaller budgets, Porsche countered with its own show-stopper in the 2015 Macan, a compact tall wagon that combines pizzazz, performance and nearly endless customization options.

Porsche debuted two Macan models in L.A. with differing V6 powerplants: the 300-horsepower Macan S; and the 400-horsepower Macan Turbo. The Turbo goes from standstill to 100 km/h in 4.6 seconds. Both models are scheduled to arrive at Canadian dealerships late in the spring of 2015, with base pricing set at $54,300 (Canadian funds) for the S and $82,200 for the Turbo.

For the more blue-collar driver, Chevrolet launched its 2015 Colorado in the hopes of rejuvenating a rather stagnant mid-size pickup truck segment. Based on a new global truck platform first shown two years ago, Chevy believes the versatile Colorado will rival the popular small pickups from Toyota and Nissan, and appeal to people with active lifestyles who aren't interested in a car or a full-size truck. Quiet, comfortable and rugged (according to Chevy), the Colorado will initially offer a 2.5-litre four-cylinder and a 3.6-litre V6. A six-speed automatic transmission is standard, but a six-speed manual is also available (for four-cylinder Work Truck models only) and a 2.8-litre turbo-diesel option will be added to the Colorado catalogue for the 2016 model year. Pricing has yet to be set.

Honda's extremely futuristic-looking concept, the FCEV, definitely got tongues wagging with its unusual yet sleek design

The Jaguar F-Type Coupe was one of the headlining acts in Los Angeles, and rightfully so.

So, What else?

Production models weren't the only vehicles making headlines at the L.A. Auto Show as the usual parade of quirky and fascinating concept vehicles drew plenty of attention. By far, the Mercedes-Benz Vision Gran Turismo created the most chatter. This striking sports car features gull-wing doors and was designed to resemble a big cat on the hunt with a blend of some old-school classic Mercedes race cars nicely blended in. Inspiration for the design came from the new Gran Turismo 6 video game. And while there are no plans for a production version of this car, a few design ideas are expected to find some future Mercedes models, especially the replacement for the SLS AMG that's at the end of the road. Honda offered a glimpse into its long-term commitment to improving hydrogen fuel-cell technology and performance — and perhaps a hint at the direction of some futuristic sci-fi looking model designs — with its FCEV. This creative concept is powered by a hydrogen fuel "stack" that converts hydrogen to electricity. Instead of plugging in at night as you might with a battery powered car, you just make sure the tank is full of hydrogen and you're good to go. No "range anxiety," as long as there's hydrogen around. Honda plans to have it ready for production and launch sometime in 2015.

And with an eye to the longer-term, Ford pulled the curtain on its Edge concept, which is a vehicle that takes a couple more steps toward full vehicle autonomy with its use of ultrasonic sensors. It features a fully-assisted parking aid that can be activated from inside the vehicle or by remote control and will prompt the car to navigate into and out of a parking space, with no driver assistance. The LA Auto Show might never attract the media or industry interest of the annual show in Detroit (in January). But when it comes to celebrating big names and memorable debuts, nobody does it better than the folks in Tinsel Town.

Correction

In last week's AutoKnow we said the services of Canada Drive Away costed "typically not more than $500." It should have read not less than $500. Metro apologizes for the error.

Three ways to beat the winter driving blues

Fun, diversity and technology. Enjoy the shaky ride and the skill involved to control in harsh conditions while appreciating the tires that help you do so

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Seems to me it's just as crucial to prepare your mood for winter driving as it is to prepare your vehicle for winter driving.

This occurred to me last weekend as I drove through a winter storm, or at least what the weather media elite here in Central Canada now call a winter storm. Could be wrong, but didn't we once just call this type of thing "winter"? Anyways, here are three ways you might adjust your mood, to be the boss of winter driving, and not the other way around…

Realize the Fun Factor
It's not a wintery mess, it's an opportunity to get the vehicle a little "loose" on the snow. And that's fun. Well, fun until you hit something hard, and a lot of people in uniforms come calling. Sliding around an empty, snow-covered parking lot, used to be the time-honoured way teenage boys learned car control. Put on some Twisted Sister and give it a try. Even if you don't have a run-off safety zone or empty parking lot at your disposal, just revel in the extra brain energy it takes to drive on slippery surfaces. It's engaging, entertaining and probably at least as effective in staving off dementia as doing crossword puzzles.

Appreciate the Diversity of Driving Talent
Nothing separates the good driver from the duffer like a snowy road. The speed differential between a person who knows how to drive in the snow, with a vehicle equipped for such, versus a person who has no clue, with a vehicle with even less of clue, is really quite amazing. If you're the former, and following the latter and can't pass, it can be one of the most exasperating driving scenarios you'll every encounter. It's the driving equivalent of having your recess time cut into, because your teacher won't release the whole class until everybody has their coats on, and some of your classmates are still confounded by the physics of zippers. Instead of seething and showing off your excellent vocabulary of four-letter words, why not just revel in the diversity, and let patience and the pride of your superior driving abilities be your predominant state of mind.

Leverage the Technology
Winter tire technology has shot up lately. They used to be quite a bit better in the cold, slush and snow than all-seasons. Now they're crazy better. They take a winter weakling of a vehicle and turn it into a minor superhero of a winter vehicle, and driving a superhero is definitely mood-altering. And we'd like to give props to Canadian Tire, for being the first to commission the development of an all-season tire that actually changes colour at 7 degrees Celsius, the point at which they start to struggle, by becoming less pliable and less able to grip the road. It's your signal that it's time to swap them for those super capable winters.

Interestingly, the technology is not unlike a mood ring. When the temperature drops, you mood is susceptible to drop too. But it doesn't have to — mind bend it the other way.

Joe Hallett of the British rubber development firm, ARTIS, holds the concept tire commissioned by Canadian Tire. It's sidewall turns blue at 7 degrees C, when it's time to get into the winter tire mood. PHOTO: CANADIAN TIRE

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Financed bi-weekly for 84 months with $0 down. Offer excludes freight and air tax.
WELL-EQUIPPED WITH: 6 Speed Selectshift® Automatic Transmission with Sport mode. Power Sideview Mirrors. MyKey®. Torque Vectoring Control AND MUCH MORE.
6.2L/100km 46MPG HWY 9.1L/100km 31MPG CITY**
OFFERS INCLUDE $9,250 IN HOLIDAY BONUS CASH
2013 F-150 SUPER CAB XLT 4X4 5.0L
CASH PURCHASE FOR ONLY $26,999* BEST-SELLING TRUCKS IN CANADA FOR 47 YEARS PLUS $500 HOLIDAY BONUS CASH
OR PURCHASE FINANCE FOR $198 @ 4.49% APR Bi-weekly for 72 months with $0 down. Offers exclude freight and air tax.
OR step up to a Super Crew for only $20 more bi-weekly.
10.6L/100km 27MPG HWY 15.0L/100km 19MPG CITY**
WELL-EQUIPPED WITH: 17" Machined Aluminum Wheels. AdvanceTrac® with RSC®. Trailer Sway Control. Automatic Headlamps AND MUCH MORE.
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WELL-EQUIPPED WITH: Heated Mirrors. 17" Painted Alloy Wheels. Integrated Turn Signal Mirrors. Keyless Entry Keypad AND MUCH MORE.
5.8L/100km 49MPG HWY 9.2L/100km 31MPG CITY**
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Retail offers not combinable with any CPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). ▲ Between December 16 – 29, 2013, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Ford models (excluding C-MAX, Mustang Shelby and BOSS 302, Flex, Explorer, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series, F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 (Value Leader), F-35 to F-550, and medium truck) for up to 60 months, to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72 months, monthly payment is $520.83/ $416.66/ $347.22, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. ‡ Offer valid until January 2, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to Canadian residents towards the purchase or lease of most new 2013/2014 Ford models (excluding Focus, Fiesta, C-MAX, Mustang Shelby and BOSS 302, Transit Connect Electric, and F-150 Raptor) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Only one (1) bonus offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle. Taxes payable before offer amount is deducted. *Purchase a new 2013 Ford [F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4 5.0L] for [$26,999] [after Total Manufacturer Rebate of [$9,250] deducted]. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total manufacturer rebate has been deducted. Offer excludes freight and air tax ($1,700) license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. †Until January 31, 2014, receive [4.49%] / [2.49%/1.99%] APR purchase financing on new 2013 [F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4 5.0L] / [2014 [Fusion S/ Escape S] models for up to [72]/[84] months to qualified customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Get the above for [$26,999/$29,249] / [$22,499/$22,999] purchase financed at [4.49%]/ [2.49%/1.99%] APR for [72]/[84] months, with [$0]/[$0] down payment, monthly payment is [$428/$417] /[$292/$294] after delivery allowance of [$9,250]/ [$0/$750], (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of [$198/$218] / [$135/$135], interest cost of borrowing is [$3,804/$4,769]/ [$2,870/$3,570] or APR of [4.49%/4.49%]/ [2.49%/1.99%] and total to be repaid is [$30,868/$34,018] /[$24,570/$24,570]). Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers exclude freight and air tax ($1,700) license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any Fleet consumer incentives. **Offer only valid from December 3, 2013 to January 31, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before November 30, 2013 who purchase or lease of a new 2013/2014 Ford (excluding Fiesta, Focus, C-Max, Raptor, GT500, Mustang Boss 302, Transit Connect EV, and Medium Truck) or Lincoln vehicle (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Limit one (1) offer per each Eligible Vehicle purchase or lease, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Applicable taxes calculated before [ADD] $1,000 offer is deducted. ††) Claim based on analysis by Ford of Polk global new registration for CY2013 for a single nameplate which excludes rebadged vehicles, platform derivatives or other vehicle nameplate versions. + Based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. Total New Registration data for Full Size Pickups per Ford Segmentation as of YTD September 30, 2013. ^^Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2013 [F-150 4X4 5.0L V8 6-Speed Auto] / 2014 [Focus 1.2L I4 6-Speed Auto/Fusion SE 2.5L - I4/Escape S FWD 1.6L ECOBOOST I4]. Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada-approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ®: Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. 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Winter gas: The blend of the festive season

Higher RVP. Reid Vapour Pressure levels are higher in the fuel used during the cold months to ensure easier starts for vehicles

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

Just as the weather changes from summer to winter, so does gasoline. Stations are now selling winter gas, specially blended for the season.

"Winter gas can have a higher RVP, or Reid Vapor Pressure," says Wayne Moorehead, marketing manager for Canadian Tire Petroleum. "That is a measurement of the volatility of the fuel, and how subject it is to evaporation. In winter, you want a fuel that has higher volatility, because it's easier for the vehicle to start."

But there's more to it than that, and it comes down to government-mandated emissions standards. There are several places where gasoline vapours can enter the atmosphere: at the station when you're filling up, out of the filler neck if your gas cap isn't tight, and possibly out of the tailpipe, if small amounts of unburned fuel make their way back there.

Tips

- **Manual.** Go by the octane recommendation in your owner's manual. If you only need 87-octane regular fuel, there's no need to use premium.
- **Location, location.** Be smart when fuel-shopping. You'll burn up a few cents difference if the cheaper station is far away, or there's a long line at the pumps.

Winter gasoline in Canada is different than gasoline used during other seasons. CANADIAN TIRE

Gasoline evaporates faster when the outside temperature is hot. A fuel with lower RVP—one that's refined specifically to evaporate more slowly—is less likely to send harmful emissions into the air, and so the mandated standards require refineries to make lower-RVP fuel for sale during the summer months.

However, lower-RVP fuel requires a different refining process. It's costlier to make, and Moorehead says it's tougher to produce the large quantities of fuel needed in winter. Since gasoline naturally evaporates more slowly at cold temperatures, the emissions standards allow for higher-RVP fuel to be sold in the winter.

When it's cold out, some drivers worry about their fuel freezing up. However, it's far less of a problem now that cars have fuel injection, rather than carburetors, which were far more likely to experience issues with their fuel lines icing up.

Keeping your fuel tank full will help prevent water in the gas, which is the stuff that freezes. "Drive on the top half of the tank, not the bottom half," Moorehead says.

"A fuller tank has less area for condensation to take place, and having more fuel will spread out any water that is in there. People should also make sure the fuel cap fits properly, too. If you have a loose cap and it's not sealed properly, there's an opportunity for moisture to get in."

That full tank could also help ensure your safety. Cars generally get poorer mileage in the winter, and if the weather turns bad or traffic backs up, your commute could take much longer than normal. If your tank is close to empty, you could run out of gas and be left stranded.

AppRadio 3 delivers the goods

In-dash system. Pioneer's latest offers versatile and advanced apps to improve your ride

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

Ever see someone staring intently downwards, possibly smiling, while driving? The motorist in question isn't inspecting or grinning at the appearance of their crotch. They're using their smartphone — which is, of course, dangerous, naughty and likely to result in a pricey texty-driving ticket.

For those not in the new-car market, numerous mobile electronics manufacturers are offering aftermarket solutions to stay entertained, informed and in touch on the go — without the risk of earning yourself a distraction-related ticket from the local constabulary.

One such manufacturer is Pioneer. Their latest AppRadio 3 in-dash system aims to deliver integrated smartphone functionality, including developer-driven apps, to the dashboard of virtually any ride.

Like your phone, the AppRadio 3 touch-screen unit has a few hard buttons for tactile maneuvering and a big, vivid touch screen for everything else.

Out of the box, AppRadio 3 delivers the latest Bluetooth integration for hands-free calling and audio streaming, a built in radio tuner, available CD, iPod integration and more.

All functions are manipulated on the big, bright touch screen via the same slide, swipe, pinch and flick gestures you're familiar with from your smartphone.

I could stream internet radio stations, place, accept and dismiss phone calls, and easily browse my phone's music playlist, while said phone was gobbling up delicious electrons recharging in the glovebox.

Got an iPhone? Once Bluetooth pairing is complete, drivers benefit from integrated voice-command functionality, as Siri is migrated into the AppRadio 3 unit. Voice command is supported on Android devices too.

Pioneer's AppRadio 3 in-dash system. CONTRIBUTED

This eyes-free, hands-free voice-command stuff was a welcomed bonus uncommon in new rides, which typically make you use their clumsier and more rigid voice interface.

Advanced users will enjoy further enhanced functionality enabled by plugging their smartphone into the head-unit via a cable hidden away in the glovebox or console. Connected via both Bluetooth and the cable, drivers can swipe through their phone's photo gallery, access their calendar, call up their native mapping program on-screen and more.

For the most appealing part of the AppRadio 3 unit for advanced users, install the free AppRadio program on your smartphone, and a list of available AppRadio apps populates every time you access it.

Available apps at the time of writing included various web browsers, media players, navigation interfaces, internet radio tuners and the like. These apps link between your data-equipped smartphone and the AppRadio 3 screen for a fully integrated experience.

I enjoyed the in-car browser app for its ability to play back media on the large screen and use the vehicle's stereo system when I wanted to show my friends some funny internet videos. Other available apps even deliver performance meters and data displays for your vehicle's engine, right on the screen. That's only the beginning — as the available apps expand in number and genre, the system will only get better.

Your writer left the AppRadio 3 impressed, mostly, with the access to the voice-command system from his smartphone and its ability to provide calling, texting and other functions in a hands-free, eyes-free manner without learning a new voice interface.

Complaints? Some of the apps cost a buck or two, some even more than that, and selection is currently limited. Initial setup and familiarity with the AppRadio 3's operation can be difficult or frustrating for less electronics-savvy users like your writer.

End of the day, this unit is a worthy way to access full Bluetooth functionality, hands-free voice-command, and get a great big, easy-to-use screen into your ride from about $430.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will get exactly what you deserve today: no more and no less. If the rewards are good don't doubt that you have earned them; and if the rewards are not so good then aim to do better next time.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You will have to do something that makes you unpopular but if you don't do it now you may have to do something twice as bad later on.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Money matters may be causing you concern but other aspects indicate you can still have lots of fun. Besides, if you keep too tight a hold of the purse strings now you may have to spend more later.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The important thing today is that you don't over-extend yourself physically, financially or emotionally. Know your limits and stay within them.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Cosmic activity in positive areas of your chart urges you to open up and let friends and family know what you need in terms of both material wellbeing and emotional support.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
People will be demanding of you today and there may come a time when you realize you are being taken for a ride. The fact is they could have done most of these things for themselves if they wanted to. Make them wish they had.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
At some stage today your frustration is likely to bubble over and you will say or do something that you later regret. But, even so, it's good to remind those around you that your patience is finite.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You won't get things all your own way today, especially on the home front where partners and loved ones are anything but reasonable. The good news is this is only a passing phase.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There will be a setback concerning a money matter or business deal and you won't be happy about it. But is it worth getting worked up about?

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It seems you are stuck with a decision you took a while back and would do anything to get yourself out of now. That might just be possible today but the planets warn it won't come cheap.

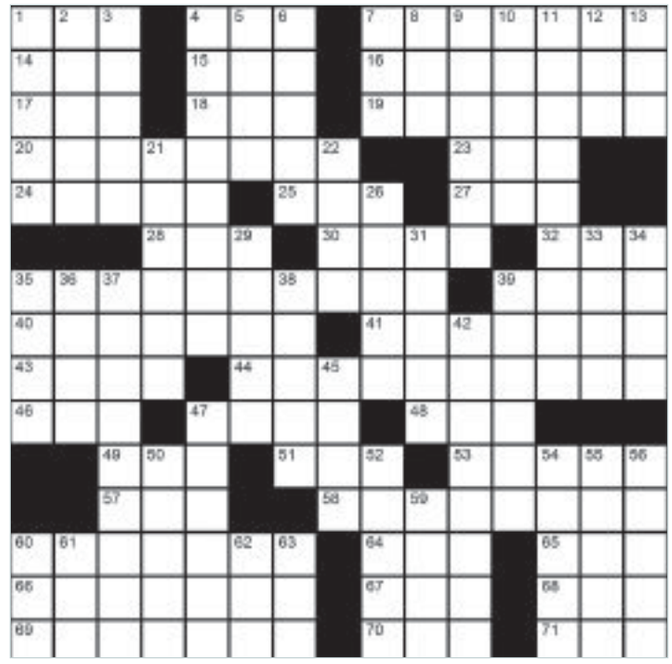
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Delays of one sort or another are likely over the next 24 hours but while it may be frustrating it could also inspire you to try a different route.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You seem to have lost your way a little and the planets suggest you swallow your pride and ask someone who knows what they are doing to help you. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



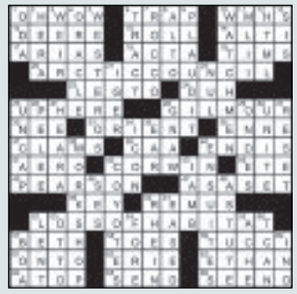
Across

1. 15, 30 or 50, e.g.
4. Opening
7. Truck
14. Airport sched. word
15. British singer Rita
16. By mistake: 2 wds.
17. __-disant (Self-styled)
18. Martini ingredient
19. Canadian comic book superheroine, __ of the Northern Lights
20. Saskatchewan city east of Saskatoon
23. Driver's proof, e.g.
24. Improvise
25. Sushi tuna
27. Tattoo artist's supply
28. "__ _ guy walks into..."
30. Botanist Mr. Gray's
32. Sports org.
35. Michael J. Fox, e.g.: 2 wds.
39. Earth's inner
40. Where Zagreb is the capital
41. Acquiesces
43. Er, I don't know-ish
44. Winter resort accommodations: 2 wds.
46. Literary fairy queen
47. Molt
48. Fashionable monogram
49. Freelancer's encl.
51. Six, in Italy
53. Entire
57. No Scrubs group
58. Canadian hockey brothers Phil or Tony
60. Mercy Mercy Me (The __) by Marvin Gaye
64. Playboy Mansion's man, for short
65. Dorothy, to pals
66. Encounter: 2 wds.
67. Goof
68. Bug kind
69. Alberta village, home of the World's Largest Pyrogy
70. Actor Mr. Knight, et al.
71. Uncle on Seinfeld

Down

1. Alexander's nickname
2. Peacock's feeling
3. Czech composer, Rudolf __
4. 1960s dancer's outfit part: 2 wds.
5. Botanical 'coat'
6. Zoo attraction
7. Wine: French
8. Compass†point
9. Steve McQueen war movie, __ __ for Heroes (1962)
10. Dick __, legendary Montreal Canadiens coach
11. De-cypher: 2 wds.
12. Mr. Chaney
13. Period
21. France/Spain: Bay of __
22. "Take __!"
26. Hero of Upper Canada, Sir __ Brock (b.1769 - d.1812)
29. TLC's Breaking __
31. Like a shoe's support
33. Guitar bar
34. Not as much
35. Pond guck
36. __ S. Rombauer (Joy of Cooking author)
37. Yukon: __ Territorial Park
38. "For goodness __!"
39. Orchestra instruments
42. Left-overs
45. Obsession, __ fixe
47. Canadian cafe chain, __ Cup
50. __ __ the Family
52. The Kid __ __ Tonite by Loverboy
54. Word with Wave
55. Make up for
56. __ 6/49
59. "...and a partridge in a __ tree."
60. Work unit
61. __-de-sac
62. Ronny & The Daytonas hit
63. Far, quaintly

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

6			3					
4	5			9				
		8				7	4	
	4		7		5			8
1			9		3			2
9			6		8		1	
	2	3				9		
				8			2	4
					1			7

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	2	4	1	8	7	6	3
3	4	8	6	2	7	9	1	5
1	7	6	9	3	5	8	2	4
6	3	5	1	4	9	2	8	7
2	8	9	7	6	3	4	5	1
4	1	7	5	8	2	3	9	6
5	2	1	8	7	4	6	3	9
7	9	3	2	5	6	1	4	8
8	6	4	3	9	1	5	7	2

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